

Configurable Industrial Input Devices That Use Electrically Conductive Elastomer

ABSTRACT

5 A configurable operator panel that uses a tactile sensor with electrically
conductive elastomer and appropriate electronics is disclosed herein. The device
relies on a robust and inexpensive tactile sensor that senses the touch position (and
may or may not sense touch pressure as well). The physical interface is easily
10 configurable along with the electronics, which execute the desired function based on
touch location and pressure. The configurable operator panel is designed to
communicate with most industrial automation equipment, including but not limited to,
motion control equipment, programmable logic controllers (PLC), personal
computers, and can be made to control other types of machines requiring external
15 analog or digital input.